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are from  $\frac{2}{5}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a line long. The feet are terminated by a five-lobed disk and a pair of claws, as represented in figure 3. The palpi are six-jointed, as represented in figure 1. The mandibles end in pincers or chelæ, resembling lobster claws, as represented in figure 2. The movable joint of the chelæ has two teeth at the end. The opposed extremity of the fixed joint of the chelæ is narrow, and ends in a hook.

Whether this mite is a true parasite of the ear of the living ox, or whether it obtained access to the position in which it was found after the death of the ox in the slaughter house, has not yet been determined. Dr. Turnbull observed it only in the position indicated.

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JANUARY 9.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-three members present.

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JANUARY 16.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-one members present.

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JANUARY 23.

Dr. CARSON, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty-six members present.

Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said that among the ranchmen and miners of California a belief exists that the mammoth *Sequoias* will live eight or ten years after being girdled. These trees often had strips of bark taken off for some distance up, and completely round, for the purpose of exhibition in other countries.

This belief has been generally discredited by those of us accustomed to the prevalent ideas of the effects of girdling. But experience having taught him how often popular observation was nearly at least correct, notwithstanding our predisposition to believe implicitly accepted conclusions, he had watched for some opportunity to test, by some observations of his own, the Californian idea.

A few years ago an Austrian pine on his grounds had the main stem partially girdled by an insect. The opportunity before referred to suggested itself; and he completed the injury, entirely girdling the stem. It was then staked securely to prevent the wind from breaking it off at the injured place. The part above the

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injury was about four years old, and the whole tree perhaps ten years. It continued to grow both above and below the wound until the last season, when the upper portion died. The whole of the section between the horizontal tier of branches above the girdling and the tier below, a space of about eighteen inches, died the same season with the girdling. He now exhibited a portion of the trunk with part of the stem, which died the year of girdling; and part of the piece which had grown above, and died last year. There were four concentric rings of wood in the former and eight in the latter, showing that it had made four annual circles of wood after the complete girdling.

He then observed that we might assume that the vital functions could scarcely be carried on between the upper portions of the tree and lower, if the intervening cells were dead. He supposed the cells forming the annual concentric masses of wood had a longer period of vitality in some species of trees than in others. In many trees it was well known that such a girdling as that performed on the pine would destroy them in one season. A recent examination of a trunk of *Paulownia* led him to believe that in that tree the cells of the annual circles lived but two years. It was probable that even in the pine family the period of vitality might vary with different species. In the Rocky Mountains of Colorado he had seen many hundreds of trees of *Pinus ponderosa* which had the whole of the bark for about six feet from the ground stripped from the trees for the purpose of getting at the inner bark, which was used as food by the Ute Indians; yet he saw no trees which indicated that they had been destroyed by this heavy girdling process. In the case of the Austrian pine, however, though the formation of wood went on above the girdled portion, growth was not as vigorous as before. The first season after the young shoots were about one foot in length; but these annually decreased, until last year they were but two inches.

Prof. COPE exhibited the cranium of a humped-backed whale from the Caribbean Sea, obtained by Dr. Goës, of St. Bartholomew's, and presented to the Academy through the liberality of Messrs. Wm. S. Vaux and Isaac Lea. He pointed out that while the scapula and cervical vertebræ were of the type of the true *Megapteræ*, the development of the coronoid process of the mandible was comparable to that seen in *Balænoptera*. The orbital plates of the frontal are rather wider than in *M. longimana*. The species was named *Megaptera bellicosa*. Its size was about that of the *M. longimana*, but the flippers were shorter. A full description appeared in the Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society for 1871.

Prof. COPE exhibited a portion of the skeleton of a large crocodile from the cretaceous green sand of New Jersey, belonging to the genus *Holops*. The teeth were smooth, cylindric, acute, 1872.]

and much curved, the muzzle gavial-like. The cervical vertebræ were very large, and of depressed form; the walls of the long bones unusually thin, and pneumatic foramina large. He called it *Holops pneumaticus*.

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JANUARY 30.

Mr. WM. S. VAUX, Vice-President, in the chair.

Twenty members present.

Mr. Wm. Swaim was elected a member.

The following standing committees were elected for 1872:—

ANTHROPOLOGY.

J. Aitken Meigs,  
F. V. Hayden,  
Henry S. Schell.

COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.

Harrison Allen,  
J. H. McQuillan,  
Jos. Leidy.

HERPETOLOGY.

Edw. D. Cope,  
Harrison Allen,  
S. B. Howell.

ARTICULATA.

Geo. H. Horn,  
R. S. Kenderdine,  
T. Hale Streets.

BOTANY.

E. Durand,  
Thos. Meehan,  
Rachel Bodley.

INVERTEBRATE PALÆONTOLOGY.

T. A. Conrad,  
H. C. Wood, Jr.,  
Persifer Frazer, Jr.

MAMMALOGY.

Harrison Allen,  
Edw. D. Cope,  
Henry C. Chapman.

ORNITHOLOGY.

Bernard A. Hoopes,  
Edwin Sheppard,  
Theodore L. Harrison,  
Jas. A. Ogden.

ICHTHYOLOGY.

Edw. D. Cope,  
Thaddeus Norris,  
J. H. Redfield.

RADIATA.

Geo. H. Horn,  
J. G. Hunt,  
R. S. Kenderdine.

VERTEBRATE PALÆONTOLOGY.

Jos. Leidy,  
Edw. D. Cope,  
Harrison Allen.

MINERALOGY.

Wm. S. Vaux,  
E. Goldsmith,  
Jos. Wilcox,  
Clarence S. Bement,  
Persifer Frazer, Jr.

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